



Improving
Handwriting

MONTBLANC

Welcome

Montblanc believes in the power of handwriting and the creativity, imagination and emotion it unlocks in everyone.

The following pages will give you a glimpse into the world of handwriting. Providing actionable tips to enhance your writing style and to assist in increasing readability and efficiency.

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Introduction

This workbook aims to help you find joy in writing by refining your approach to it. Through a series of simple steps, you will be able to write faster and more legibly, enhancing your overall writing experience.

In the following chapters, you will discover how to improve your handwriting. The focus lies on individual letters and, later, on complete words.

The chapters are designed to empower you to work on them independently. You have the freedom to choose when and for how long you want to work on the exercises, putting you in control of your learning process.

We are confident that you will find much joy and success in refining your handwriting.

You have the potential, and we are here to guide you!

GLOSSARY

Components: Components are the fundamental building blocks of letters, such as lines, curves, or loops. These elements are often repeated across different letters.

Connecting Strokes: The connecting elements between letters.

Go to Page Function: You can jump directly to any page by using the 'go to page' function. Navigate to 'more options' ☰, click 'go to page' ↗, and input the page number you want to be redirected to.

Pitfall: A pitfall in handwriting refers to minor inconsistencies or errors that can lead to misunderstandings, like unclear letters or numbers.

Slant: The angle of inclination.

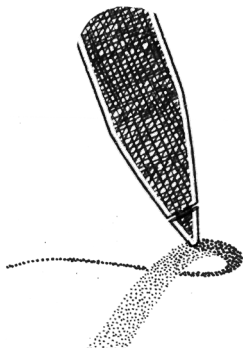
Basics

IMPORTANCE OF HANDWRITING

We bring the magic of writing by hand into the digital age as it maintains its relevance even in an increasingly mobile world. The added value of handwriting can be found in psychological, physiological, cultural, and efficiency aspects.

In the following, you will be introduced to how these impact the importance of writing and contribute to its lasting relevance.

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Psychological Aspect

Your handwriting is unique and an expression of your personality.

However, there are other aspects that make it special. Words crafted in handwriting can evoke emotions and enables us to express ourselves and share our thoughts and feelings.

Do you remember the first time you, your siblings, or potentially your children scribbled their names? How did it feel to see the letters come to life? Or perhaps you still recall your grandparents', your parents', friends' or lover's handwriting. The letters, birthday cards, and little notes you've saved - they're not just paper, they're memories that evoke emotions and encapsulate moments.

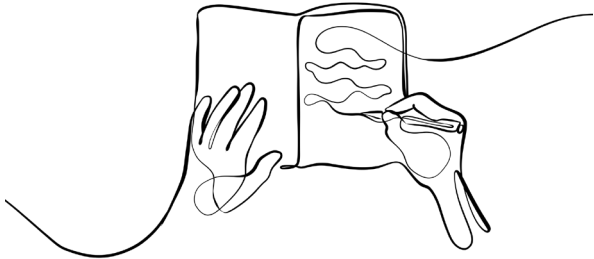
While writing has evolved, the enduring creativity and the desire to express emotions can still be observed in our digital age. We can shape and design letters ourselves, handwriting them or using digital tools. It is not without reason that there is also a trend towards bullet journals and calligraphy, which takes an even more artistic approach to handwriting, reminding us of the lasting nature of this tradition.

There's something unique about the feeling of a beautiful pen in hand, the emotions that are evoked when shaping letters and words. It's a sensory experience that's unique to handwriting, one that we should appreciate and engage with.

Physiological Aspect

Nonetheless, handwriting encompasses more than emotions. From a physiological point of view, writing by hand trains our fine motor skills. To write precisely, the muscles must be trained to hold and guide the pen accurately.

Handwriting can truly be considered a cognitive masterpiece. The intricate combination of motor, sensory, linguistic, and cognitive processes required makes writing by hand a fascinating and complex process.



Cultural Aspect

Going beyond our personal bond to handwriting, we can observe the crucial role of writing by hand in preserving the cultural heritage of different societies over different periods of time.

Ancient documents such as literary works, historical records, letters, or even old laws enable us to better understand history and gain insight into past ways of life and thoughts. Thus, they enable us to learn more about ways of life at different times and places.

This applies not only to the past but also to understanding cultural and lifestyle difference in the present. Writing enables us to impart important and valuable knowledge and skills, forming the basis for education, collaboration, and communication within and across cultures.

Efficiency Aspect

Lastly, we can see the relevance of handwriting in terms of efficiency.

When we choose to write by hand instead of using a keyboard, we often focus on writing down only the words that are genuinely relevant. This requires us to think actively while writing, improving our understanding of the content.

In contrast, copying and pasting entire sentences or paragraphs is easier when writing with a keyboard, which can reduce knowledge retention.

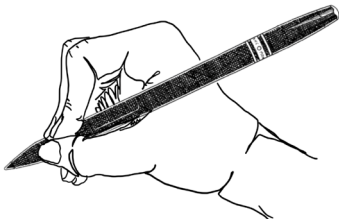
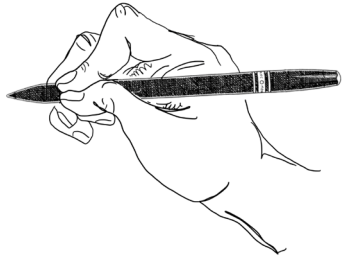


PEN GRIPS

There are various ways to hold your Montblanc Digital Pen. Here, we take a look at the most common pen grips.

Tripod Grip

The Tripod Grip, known for its efficiency, is the most common pen grip. The index finger, thumb, and middle finger guide the pen, which rests on the middle finger. This position allows for precise control with minimal effort.



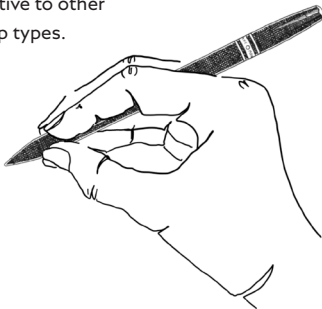
Quadropod Grip

Unlike the Tripod Grip, the pen no longer rests on the middle finger but instead on the ring finger. The middle finger is now positioned alongside the index finger to help guide the pen.

PEN GRIPS

Adapted Tripod Grip

The adapted tripod grip is relatively uncommon but offers unique advantages. In this grip, the pen lies between the index and middle fingers, with the thumb supporting the tip. The ring finger is not needed for support here. This grip requires minimal force and is an excellent alternative to other grip types.



Feel free to try out different pen grips to see which one suits you best. There isn't one 'right' grip that works for everyone—it's about finding what feels most comfortable and natural for you.

Improving Handwriting

Now comes the time to explore writing with your Montblanc Digital Pen on the Montblanc Digital Paper.

In this chapter, we will examine how to
improve your handwriting.

In the first part, we will take a closer look at the basics. Following that, you will be introduced to the common pitfalls of writing letters. Additionally, we will discuss what needs to be considered to ensure that not only individual letters but also entire words are written legibly.

This workbook is designed to give you the freedom to navigate as you wish. Whether you want to delve deep into analyzing your handwriting or take a short break from your busy day, these pages are here for you. Use them as you see fit and always remember to enjoy the process.

There's no need to rush. Each handwriting is unique, as is the amount of practice and process time needed. Take your time and enjoy the journey of improving your handwriting.

Let's get started!

BASICS

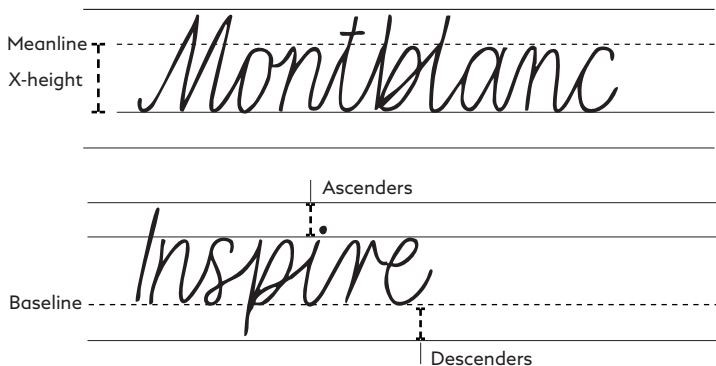
Let's delve into the basics of handwriting.

In this section, we will explain the key terminology, review the guidelines, and break down the letters into individual lines and loops. Additionally, we will explore how to connect the letters properly.

Keep in mind, the fundamentals you master in this chapter are the essential stepping stones for the tasks in the subsequent chapter.

Explanations of the Guidelines

To get started with enhancing your handwriting efficiently, we will begin with the structure of handwriting. You will encounter the lines below in most exercises as they provide guidance for your writing. Moreover, you can already get acquainted with some of the most important terms, such as 'baseline' and 'ascender', that you will need in this workbook. We will introduce more terms as we progress.



The dotted **baseline** ensures that you write the base of the letters at the same height, i.e. on the line. The **meanline** is the boundary of the x-height in height.

The **x-height** shows the height of the lowercase letters. Its purpose lies in limiting the height of these letters. The **ascenders** are the upwards extensions of the lowercase letters in height, such as 'a', 'd' or 'l'. **Descenders** are the extensions of the lowercase letters vertically downwards, such as a 'j' or 'g'.

Components of the Letters

There are various fonts and methods available to learn how to write legibly. If you look at the art of beautiful writing—calligraphy—you will recognize that letters comprise individual shapes.

In this workbook we delve deeper into the components of letters, which are the fundamental building blocks of each letter. These components, such as lines, curves, or loops, are often repeated across different letters, making them a key aspect of our learning journey.

On the next page, we have prepared an example to illustrate what we mean by the building blocks of letters.

You will need this knowledge when we relearn the letters in the next chapter on pitfalls. The breakdown of the letters will also be shown again there.

Components of the Letters

As you can clearly see with the 'a', it consists of an oval 'o' and a 'u'. When you combine these two building blocks, you get a clear and legible 'a'. The 'd', for example, is also made up of the building blocks 'o' and 'l'.

a o+u=a d o+l=d

Here, we introduce all the components you will need for this workbook. In the following practice section, you will recognize these components again and learn how to apply them.

l o u n g

TYPICAL PITFALLS

Let's explore common pitfalls when writing letters in our typeface and discover how to correct them. You'll be reassured to know that most imperfections can be swiftly and easily addressed, boosting your confidence in your handwriting skills.

In the next step, we will look at four typical pitfalls.

We will first examine the problem using handwritten examples and then learn how to correct each pitfall with the help of a series of exercises. Please use the text you will write in the 'Getting Started with Writing' part to analyse whether you notice these pitfalls in your writing. The exercises allow you to correct and re-learn them.

Some of these pitfalls may not apply to your writing, and you may skip to the next exercise. However, we encourage you to challenge yourself to improve these aspects of your handwriting, fostering a sense of determination and motivation.

*As with any skill, handwriting is a form of art -
just like learning an instrument or a new hobby,
it takes practice.*

Getting Started with Writing

To truly analyse your writing, please write the text on the next page without putting much thought or effort into it. The intention should not be to write especially beautifully or differently than usual. Instead, we ask you to write as if you were under time pressure. This ensures that the text reflects your genuine handwriting and lets you get the most out of the following exercises.

We will revisit this example multiple times throughout the workbook, each time providing you with more insights to better understand and analyse your handwriting. This gradual approach will give you the patience and reassurance you need to focus on improving your writing.

1. Disorderly or Unclosed Circles

We start with a pitfall that is often observed in handwriting: Disorderly or even incomplete closing of the circles within a letter quickly results in illegibility.

In the first word 'honors' the 'o' looks like an 'a'.

✗ 

✓ 

Moreover, in the second word, 'only', the letter 'o' looks like an 'a' too.

✗ 

✓ 

Here in the word 'during', the 'd' looks like 'cl'.

✗ 

✓ 

1. Disorderly or Unclosed Circles

In the last word 'but', the 'u' could be mistaken with an 'a'.

✗ 

✓ 

🔍 Closing circles properly will increase the readability.


Take a look at the sentence you wrote in the beginning to see if you can find this habit. If you notice that there are circles you do not close properly, the following exercise will help you improve. We have underlined the letters in the text that might be relevant to this exercise.

Montblanc celebrates and honors, throughout its heritage and in particular during our present times, the power not only of words, and the pen, but more so of the human hand, mind and soul.

📘 **Go to page function:** You can jump directly to the sentence you wrote on page 20 by using the 'go to page' function. Simply navigate to 'more options' ☰, click on 'go to page' 📄 and input the page number you would like to be redirected to.

Practise: Close Circle Properly

Before we start improving the letters, we have lined up practice sheets for you to practice the 'circle closing'. This allows you to repeat the exercise as often as you like. Make sure that all circles are written neatly and are recognisable. The more you practice, the more natural it will feel to you. As always, you can leave and return to the exercise anytime. Every handwriting is unique and requires different amounts of practice.

 This pre-exercise consists of individual components of the letters in the alphabet. We focus on the correct execution of circles within the letters.

With the ✓ we show you the readable and with ✗ we mark the illegible version.



ooo



ooOo



ooo



ooOo

✓

lll

×

lll

✓

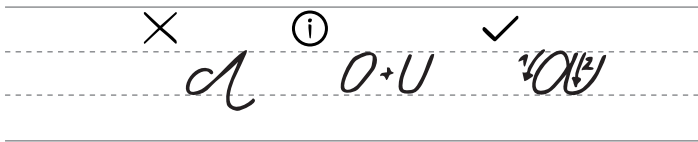
lll

×

lll

In the next step, we will look at the letters most impacted by the pitfall of 'closing the circle properly'. We will show you a possible composition of the letter components for the letter 'a'.

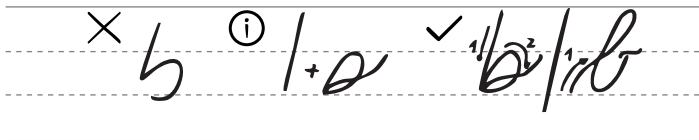
With the ✕ we mark the pitfall and with the ✓ we show you the readable version. The ⓘ-icon shows the individual parts that comprise the letters.



✍ Write the letter here in your usual handwriting and close the circles correctly.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of four horizontal lines (top, dashed middle, dashed middle, bottom) repeated three times.

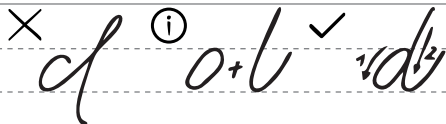
With the ✗ we mark the pitfall and with the ✓ we show you the readable version. The ⓘ-icon shows the individual parts that comprise the letters. To provide guidance, you will be shown two ways of writing the letter 'b'. This can help you to write the letters correctly. Choose whichever feels more comfortable for you.



✍ Write the letter here in your usual handwriting and close the circles correctly.

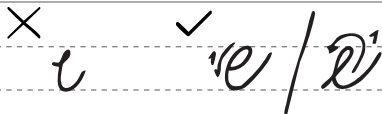
Handwriting practice lines consisting of four horizontal lines (top, middle-dashed, bottom-dashed, bottom) for writing the letter 'b'.


With the ✕ we mark the pitfall and with the ✓ we show you the readable version. The ⓘ-icon shows the individual parts that comprise the letters. To provide guidance, you will be shown a possible composition of the letter components for the letter 'd'. This can help you to write the letters correctly.



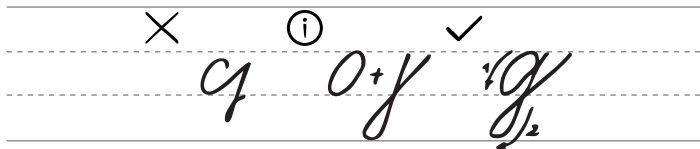
✍ Write the letter here in your usual handwriting and close the circles correctly.

With the ✕ we mark the pitfall and with the ✓ we show you the readable version. To provide guidance, you will be shown two ways of writing the letter 'e'. This can help you to write the letters correctly. Choose whichever feels more comfortable for you.



 Write the letter here in your usual handwriting and close the circles correctly.

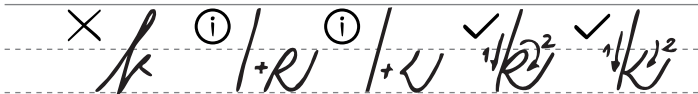
With the ✕ we mark the pitfall and with the ✓ we show you the readable version. The ⓘ-icon shows the individual parts that comprise the letters. To provide guidance, you will be shown a possible composition of the letter components for the letter 'g'. This can help you to write the letters correctly.



✍ Write the letter here in your usual handwriting and close the circles correctly.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of four horizontal lines (top, dashed middle, bottom, and descender) repeated multiple times for writing practice.

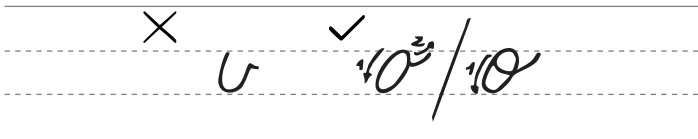
With the ✗ we mark the pitfall and with the ✓ we show you the readable version. The ⓘ-icon shows the individual parts that comprise the letters. To provide guidance, you will be shown a possible composition of the letter components for the letter 'k'. This can help you to write the letters correctly. Here, you can also see alternative ways of writing the letter. Choose whichever feels more comfortable for you.




✍ Write the letter here in your usual handwriting and close the circles correctly.

Blank handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

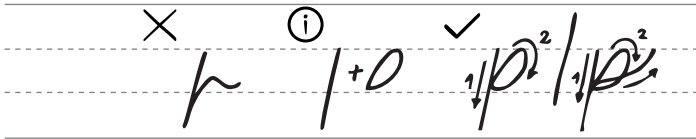
With the ✗ we mark the pitfall and with the ✓ we show you the readable version. To provide guidance, you will be shown two ways of writing the letter 'o'. This can help you to write the letters correctly. Choose whichever feels more comfortable for you.




 Write the letter here in your usual handwriting and close the circles correctly.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of four horizontal lines (top, middle-dashed, bottom-dashed, bottom) for writing the letter 'o'.

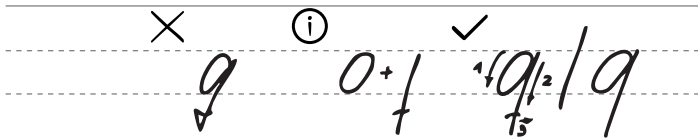
With the ✗ we mark the pitfall and with the ✓ we show you the readable version with and without the connection strokes. The ⓘ-icon shows the individual parts that comprise the letters. To provide guidance, you will be shown two ways of writing the letter 'p'. This can help you to write the letters correctly. Choose whichever feels more comfortable for you.




 Write the letter here in your usual handwriting and close the circles correctly.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of four horizontal lines (top, middle-dashed, bottom, and baseline) repeated multiple times for writing practice.

With the ✗ we mark the pitfall and with the ✓ we show you the readable version. The ⓘ-icon shows the individual parts that comprise the letters. To provide guidance, you will be shown a possible composition of the letter components for the letter 'q'. This can help you to write the letters correctly. Here, you can also see alternative ways of writing the letter. Choose whichever feels more comfortable for you.



 Write the letter here in your usual handwriting and make sure you close the circles correctly.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of four horizontal lines (top, dashed middle, dashed middle, bottom) repeated multiple times for writing practice.

2. No Clear Curves


One reason handwriting often appears illegible is that we do not write the curves clearly enough, e.g., for 'm,n, u, and w'. Instead, they appear distorted, making the letter challenging to recognise.

The 'w' in 'power' appears as an 'r'.

✗ 

✓ 

The 'n' in 'Montblanc' often looks like a 'u'.

✗ 

✓ 

The 'm' in 'moreso' appears as a 'w'.
Here the curves are set in the wrong direction.


✗ 

✓ 

2. No Clear Curves

The 'n' in 'human' appears as an 'r'.






 Write out the curve at m, n, u and w, especially when the letters follow each other.

Have a look at the sentence you wrote in the beginning to see if you can identify this habit. If so, the next exercise can help you write these letters more legibly.

We have underlined the letters in the text that might be relevant to this exercise.

Montblanc celebrates and honors, throughout its heritage and in particular during our present times, the power not only of words, and the pen, but more so of the human hand, mind and soul.


 **Go to page function:** You can jump directly to the sentence you wrote on page 20 by using the 'go to page' function. Simply navigate to 'more options' , click on 'go to page'  and input the page number you would like to be redirected to.

Practise: Correct Rounding

In this exercise, we have broken down the letters where the pitfall of 'correct rounding' occurs into their components. This is a great warm-up before we start with the letters. The more you practice, the more natural it will feel to you.

Remember, every handwriting is unique, just like you, and requires different amounts of practice. As always, you can leave and come back to the exercise at any point.

The point here is not to copy the template exactly. Rather, it is about making sure that your writing is legible and not misinterpreted.

 This exercise consists of individual components of the letters in the alphabet. We concentrate on the correct execution of rounding.



n

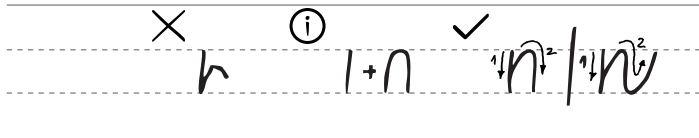


u



w

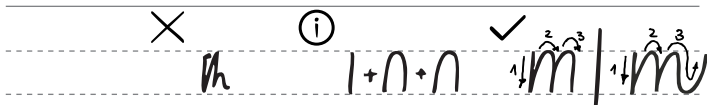
With the ✗ we mark the pitfall and with the ✓ we show you the readable version with and without the connection strokes. The ⓘ-icon shows the individual parts that comprise the letters. To provide guidance, you will be shown a possible composition of the letter components. This is just an aid to better understand the letter's structure, in this case, the letter 'n'.



✍ This pre-exercise consists of individual components of the letters in the alphabet. We concentrate on the correct execution of rounding.

Blank handwriting practice lines for the pre-exercise, consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle-dashed, bottom).

With the ✕ we mark the pitfall and with the ✓ we show you the readable version with and without the connection strokes. The ⓘ-icon shows the individual parts that comprise the letters. To provide guidance, you will be shown a possible composition of the letter components for the letter 'm'. This can help you to write the letters correctly.



EThis pre-exercise consists of individual components of the letters in the alphabet. We concentrate on the correct execution of rounding.

Blank handwriting practice lines consisting of four horizontal lines (top, dashed middle, dashed middle, bottom) for writing individual letter components.


With the ✗ we mark the pitfall and with the ✓ we show you the readable version. To provide guidance, you will be shown a possible composition of the letter components for the letter 'v'. This can help you to write the letters correctly.

✗

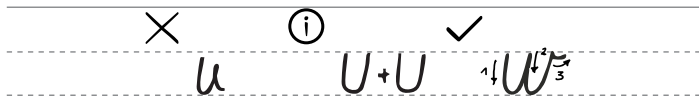
U


✓

1 ↓ V

 Write the letter here in your handwriting as usual and make sure to keep the edges pointed.

With the ✗ we mark the pitfall and with the ✓ we show you the readable version. The ⓘ-icon shows the individual parts that comprise the letters. To provide guidance, you will be shown a possible composition of the letter components for the letter 'w'. This can help you to write the letters correctly.



 Write the letter here in your handwriting as usual and make sure to keep the edges pointed.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, provided for the student to practice writing the letter 'w'.

3. Unproportional Letters

In the next pitfall, we examine the proportions of individual letters. If all your letters are written at mid-length, regardless of their ascenders or descenders, they become more challenging to read.

The horizontal line of the 't' in 'throughout' typically extends beyond the x-height and into the ascender area. However, in this example, the 't' is smaller than the 'u' and looks more like a star, as the horizontal and vertical lines are drawn to the same length.



The same error can also be seen in the second example, 'mind'. Here, the 'd' is only inside the x-height.



3. Unproportional Letters

In the last word, 'particular', a small part of the 'l' can still be recognised, but it is smaller than all the other letters and, therefore, complex to make out.

X particular

✓ particular

Q Letters are all written at the same height and more difficult to distinguish.

Examine the sentence you wrote at the beginning and analyse whether any letters were in the wrong size or proportions. We have underlined the letters in the text that may be relevant to this exercise.

Montblanc celebrates and honors, throughout its heritage and in particular during our present times, the power not only of words, and the pen, but more of the human hand, mind and soul.




Go to page function: You can jump directly to the sentence you wrote on page 20 by using the 'go to page' function. Simply navigate to 'more options' ☰, click on 'go to page' ➔ and input the page number you would like to be redirected to.

Practise: Proportions of the Letters

We have prepared practice sheets to help you work on the proportions of the letters. You can find the letters with and without the connecting strokes, which are indicated by the dotted line. Choose the one that suits you best.

a c e i m n o r s u v w x z

a c e i m n o r s u v w x z

 In this exercise, stick to the provided grid to practice the proportions of your letters. We will start with the alphabetical letters that fall within the x-height. Make sure to stay within the grid.

Try to apply the learnings from the last two chapters, like closing circles neatly and ensuring smooth rounding within the letters. The templates are there to guide and support you along the way.

The point here is not to copy the template. Instead, it is about ensuring they are legible and do not lead to misinterpretation. You can repeat the exercises as often as you like or return to them later.

a

c

e

i

m

n

o

r

s

u

v

w

X

Z

✓
Descenders

g j p q y

✍ Write the letter in your usual handwriting, making sure that each is written in the correct proportion – that's the focus of this exercise. The dotted line is the connector stroke. Choose the one that suits you best. If you'd like to challenge yourself further, you can also practice closing circles properly and refining the rounding of the letters.

g

j

p

q

y

Ascenders

✓ b d f h k l t

✍ Write the letter in your usual handwriting, making sure that each is written in the correct proportion – that's the focus of this exercise. The dotted line is the connector stroke. Choose the one that suits you best. If you'd like to challenge yourself further, you can also practice closing circles properly and refining the rounding of the letters.

b

d

f

h

k

l

t

4. Distortion of Letters

Sometimes, letters within a word can appear distorted. This typically happens when letters have different starting positions along the height of the line.

This frequently occurs when some letters end on the baseline while others begin on the meanline. These different heights at the transition between letters create uneven and unexpected connection strokes, which can distort the overall appearance of the letters.

The 'h' in 'heritage' should end on the baseline. However, as the 'e' starts in the centre, the 'h' is not written all the way to the end and therefore appears distorted.

X heritage

✓ heritage

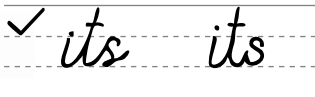
A similar thing happens with 'r' and 'o' in 'throughout': the 'o' has been placed at the top at the end of the 'r'.

X throughout

✓ throughout

4. Distortion of Letters

The connection between the 't' and the 's' in 'its' is also tricky to recognise.



Some letters end on the meanline, while the following letter starts on the baseline – or vice versa. In these cases, breaking the connection between the two letters makes sense. In other words, to restart the new letter on the baseline or to draw the connection across the meanline.



4. Distortion of Letters



You have already been introduced to connecting strokes on the previous pages. This practice part is now specifically about setting connecting strokes correctly.

As usual, we give you a brief theoretical input before continuing with the practice section.

Examine the sentence you wrote at the beginning and analyse whether any letters were in the wrong size or proportions. We have underlined some examples of potentially distorted letters in the text that might be relevant to this exercise.

Montblanc celebrates and honors, throughout its heritage and in particular during our present times, the power not only of words, and the pen, but moreso of the human hand, mind and soul.

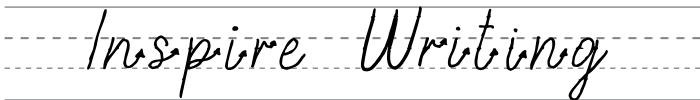


Go to page function: You can jump directly to the sentence you wrote on page 20 by using the 'go to page' function. Simply navigate to 'more options' , click on 'go to page'  and input the page number you would like to be redirected to.

CONNECTING STROKES - CURSIVE

When we write in cursive, the individual letters are connected by so-called 'connecting strokes'. These connecting strokes help us write consistently and more legibly.


We recommend placing the connecting strokes of each letter either exactly to the meanline or a little below so the next letter can be easily adjusted. As you can see in the first example, here the arrows indicate the connecting strokes reaching up to the meanline. In the second example, we show you the alternative of placing the connecting stroke slightly below the meanline.



We have drawn the connecting strokes of both versions - up to the meanline and a little below the meanline - with dotted lines to demonstrate that they appear more legible due to their uniform length and angle.

Inspire Writing

Inspire Writing

 Try out both variants and see which one suits you better. Use the lines provided here. Exerting less pressure on your Montblanc Digital Pen can help you when applying the connecting stroke. Just give it a try.

CONNECTING STROKES

Generally, you can decide whether you'd like to write in print or cursive, or mix both styles. The important thing is that if you use connecting strokes, you should apply them as consistently as possible.

As you can see in this example, print letters do not have connecting strokes. The letters are not joined together.




Inspire Writing

Practise: Set Connecting Strokes Correctly

We have lined up practice sheets for you. You can repeat the exercise here as often as you like or come back later.

Keep in mind, your handwriting is unique and may require varying levels of practice. The goal is not to mimic the template, but to ensure your words are clear and easily understood, avoiding any misinterpretation.

 This exercise focuses on writing the letters with more challenging connecting strokes correctly. This means you can immediately connect the following letter.



While this version of the 's' may look odd, it best allows you to connect the letters. Feel free to practice using your preferred variant of the 's'.



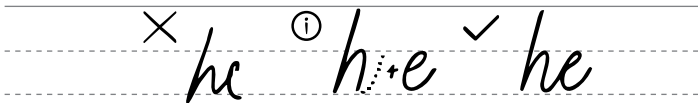
v


w

b

p

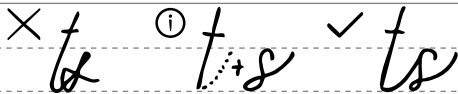
Here, you will find guidance on connecting letters that start and end at different heights, demonstrating how they can be joined together. With the ⓘ we will also show you a possible composition of the letter components for the letter 'he'. With the ✕ we mark the pitfall and with the ✓ we show you an example of a readable version.




 Write the letters in your usual handwriting and make sure you set the connecting strokes correctly.

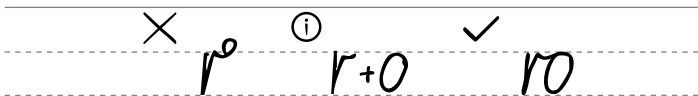
Blank handwriting practice lines consisting of four horizontal lines (top, dashed middle, dashed middle, bottom) repeated multiple times.


Here, you will find guidance on connecting letters that start and end at different heights, demonstrating how they can be joined together. With the (i) we will also show you a possible composition of the letter components for the letter 'ts'. With the X we mark the pitfall and with the ✓ we show you an example of a readable version.



 Write the letters in your usual handwriting and make sure you set the connecting strokes correctly.

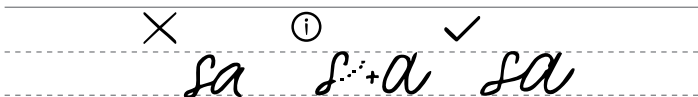
Here, you will find guidance on connecting letters that start and end at different heights, demonstrating how they can be joined together. With the (i) we will also show you a possible composition of the letter components for the letter 'ro'. With the X we mark the pitfall and with the ✓ we show you an example of a readable version.




 Write the letters in your usual handwriting and make sure you set the connecting strokes correctly.

Blank handwriting practice lines for the letter 'ro'.

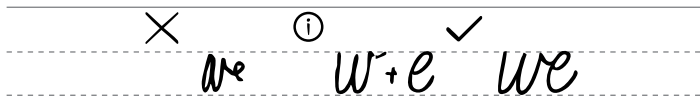
With the ✕ we mark the pitfall and with the ✓ we show you an example of a readable version. Here, you will find guidance on connecting letters that start and end at different heights. With the ⓘ we will show you a possible composition of the letter components for the letter 'sa'.




 Write the letters in your usual handwriting and set the connecting strokes correctly.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of four horizontal lines (top, dashed middle, dashed middle, bottom) repeated multiple times for practice.

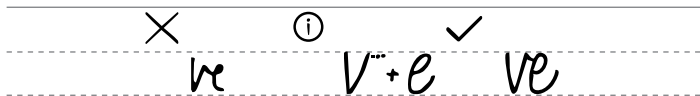
With the ✕ we mark the pitfall and with the ✓ we show you an example of a readable version. Here, you will find guidance on connecting letters that start and end at different heights. With the ⓘ we will show you a possible composition of the letter components for the letter 'we'.




 Write the letters in your usual handwriting and set the connecting strokes correctly.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of four horizontal lines (top, dashed middle, dashed middle, bottom) repeated multiple times for practice.

With the ✕ we mark the pitfall and with the ✓ we show you an example of a readable version. Here, you will find guidance on connecting letters that start and end at different heights. With the ⓘ we will show you a possible composition of the letter components for the letter 've'.



 Write the letters in your usual handwriting and set the connecting strokes correctly.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of four horizontal lines (top, middle-dashed, bottom-dashed, and baseline) repeated multiple times for practice.

Components of Writing Words Legible

In the last chapter, we focused on the details of individual letters.

In this chapter, we will examine the overall appearance of complete words or text more closely, with the ultimate goal of writing in a readable and comfortable manner and achieving a uniform and consistent handwriting style.


As in the last exercise, you will be actively involved in examining the connecting strokes and analysing your handwriting. The following section will start with a 'Writing, Reflecting & Improving', which you will use to analyse and correct your imperfections.

We look at the components: Size, Slant, and Spacing.

Writing, Reflecting & Improving

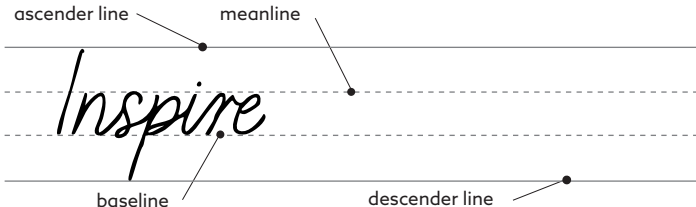
As with the exercises focusing on individual letters, we would like you to write the following sentence.

This time, try to implement what you learned in the previous section while still focusing on keeping your handwriting authentic and writing as if you were under time pressure. We will then take a step-by-step look at the different components.

 *Montblanc wishes, always, to inspire people to write, by providing them with the instruments with which to create, to leave their own mark.*

Size

By looking at the sentence you wrote on the previous page, you may already be able to recognise unevenness in the size of your letters. While we have looked at unevenness in the legibility of letters, here we will take a closer look at complete words. Words quickly become illegible due to different sizes.



Here, you can see that the letters ,l, a and n' are more difficult to read due to their inconsistent sizes.

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Use lined or grid paper

For this exercise, look at your sentence from 'Writing, Reflecting & Improving' again and analyse whether you can see any irregularities in the size of your letters. Remember, you can use the 'Go to Page' function to navigate to any page you like quickly.

Practise: Size

✍ Initially, you can use the grid to keep to the size. However, using lined or grid paper is generally best when writing.

When writing individual letters, it is essential to focus on writing them in the same size. This will immediately improve your handwriting, making it appear more precise and aesthetic.

✗ *Inspire Writing*

✓ *Inspire Writing*

Practise: Size

× Inspire Writing

✓ Inspire Writing

Practise: Size

In this template, you can practise using only two lines as a guide. Ensure you adhere to the ascender and descender correctly, even without the lines' guidance.

× *Inspire Writing*


✓ *Inspire Writing*

Slant

When looking at the sentence you wrote in 'Writing, Reflecting & Improving', you may already be able to recognise different slants within a word or a sentence. Slant in handwriting refers to the angle at which letters are tilted, either to the right or left.


Different angles of inclination make your handwriting more 'unstable' and appear wobbly. In addition to the size, uniformity in the inclination is also vital for improved legibility.



 Draw vertical lines that you can use for orientation or use the lines in the workbook as a guide.

Again, look at your sentence in 'Writing, Reflecting & Improving' and analyse whether your letters have the same slant. If you recognise irregularities here, the following exercise can help you improve. Focus on making sure your letters have the same slant by using the grid as a guide.

Practise: Slant

 When focusing on slant, horizontal and vertical lines can help to improve the inclination of your own font. The grid with vertical lines can help you better space your letters and achieve a consistent slant. This is especially useful for letters with a vertical stroke, such as b, d, h, etc., allowing you to align them perfectly parallel to the grid lines.

✗ Montblanc

✓ Montblanc


Practise: Slant

✍ Horizontal and vertical lines can help to improve the inclination of your font. In this template, we have prepared slightly steeper vertical lines for you. Try to adhere to the slope of these lines. This is your first opportunity to get a feel for which angle feels comfortable and suitable for you. Is this slant easier or more challenging for you to execute?

✘ Montblanc

✓ Montblanc

Practise: Slant

 In the last exercise on slant, the vertical lines are even steeper. Not only should each letter be written at the same angle, making them significantly easier to read, but you should also discover which slant works best for you. This is highly individual, and there is no 'one-size-fits-all' answer.

✗ Montblanc


✓ Montblanc

Spacing


When we write quickly, we often write letters very close together and nearly overlap them. This can lead to decreased legibility. Not only should the spacing within a word be considered, but the spacing between groups of words should ideally be consistent as well.

We can't apply a 'one-size-fits-all' approach here; find the appropriate spacing for your unique handwriting. It can be slightly larger or a bit tighter, but the key is that it must remain legible. In the following exercises, we will play with spacing, and you will discover what works best for you.



 Review the sentence you wrote at the beginning and analyse whether you have left enough space within the letters and words to make them legible. In this exercise, make sure that your letters have enough space.


Practise: Spacing

 Make sure that each letter and each word has enough space. Enough space means that each letter can be written clearly. This will immediately make your handwriting more legible and aesthetically pleasing. In this exercise, you will practice spacing using grids of different sizes. Focus on writing the letters within the grid while leaving even spacing between them.

✘ Montblanc

✓ Montblanc

Practise: Narrow Spacing

 This exercise is quite a challenge. Focus on writing the letters closely together while still keeping them legible. If you find that this template feels particularly good by the end of the exercise, or if you've been writing very closely so far, pay extra attention to ensuring that each letter is readable, also outside of this workbook.

✗ Montblanc

✓ Montblanc

Practise: Wide Spacing

✍ This exercise might feel unfamiliar to you as well. In this exercise, feel free to exaggerate a little. The main principle here is that the words must remain legible. The example shows that the connections between the letters are elongated – rather than the letters themselves. The latter would distort the letters and make them unreadable again.

✘ Montblanc

✓ Montblanc


Bring it All Together

Well done! You've mastered the art of writing individual letters legibly and honed three components of uniformity. Now, it's time to see how far you've come by bringing everything together.

Let's revisit the key aspects of improving your handwriting discussed in the last two chapters. About parts of letters: Closing Circles, Correct Rounding, Proportions of Letters. Concerning entire words: Size, Slant, and Spacing.

Below you have the chance to apply your learnings again. On the next page, we ask you to summarise in your own words the components that allowed you to recognise an improvement in your handwriting. In this step, you can apply all individual handwriting learnings, such as letter formation, spacing, and slant, that you have written down one last time.

It's completely normal that you might not be able to incorporate all changes perfectly the first time. Remember that learning or improving handwriting involves fine motor hand movements. These are trained over many years. The more you practice, the better you become. With all the tips and tricks we have looked at, you can still achieve small successes more quickly.

 *Montblanc wishes, always, to inspire people to write, by providing them with the instruments with which to create, to leave their own mark.*

COMING TO AN END

We hope you had an inspiring journey with us discovering various characteristics of handwriting!

Moreover, we hope you've successfully enhanced the legibility of your handwriting, allowing you to write meeting notes, summaries, letters to your loved ones, and more with a newfound sense of joy and excitement. Remember, your handwriting is a unique expression of yourself, whether as a manager, colleague, partner, grandfather, or mother - it's this uniqueness that helps build trust and humanity.

The journey you've embarked on to enhance your handwriting is a continuous one. You can always return to the workbook for renewed support and inspiration. If you're pressed for time, you can also review the summary of all the key aspects of improving your handwriting. Rest assured, we're here to support you every step of the way.

Montblanc wishes you lots of fun exploring and familiarising yourself with your handwriting and writing your next notes.

We are delighted that you have embarked on this journey with us. Thank you!